Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00927 131436Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 PPT-01 PRS-01 USIA-06
DHA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 /037 W
----------131513Z 054960 /43
R 131325Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2441
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0927

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: BOURNE VISA/POLICY ON JOURNALIST VISAS

REF: A) STATE 077994 B) STATE 081125 C) PRAGUE 0769

1. IN ABSENCE OF DCM, POLCONUS CALLED ON ACTING HEAD OF SIXTH DEPARTMENT NOVOTNY APRIL 12 (FIRST WORKING DAY AFTER EASTER WEEKEND) IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REF A. HE TOLD NOVOTNY THAT THE EMBASSY HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO BRING AN ISSUE THAT MIGHT NORMALLY BE REFERRED TO THE PRESS DEPARTMENT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SIXTH DEPART
-
MENT TO ENSURE THAT IT WAS CONSIDERED AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL.

2. POLCOUNS THEN POINTED OUT THAT THE EMBASSY HAD DISCUSSTED THE BOURNE VISA APPLICATION WITH THE PRESS DEPARTMENT AND THAT SOBR HAD REPLIED THAT TO OBTAIN A VISA BOURNE WOULD HAVE TO AGREE TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS ON HIS REPORTING, I.E. NOT TO SEE CHARTER 77 ADHERENTS. SOBR HAD GONE ON TO SAY THAT OTHER JOURNALISTS, LESS WELL KNOWN TO THE GOC, WHO RECEIVED VISAS WOULD HAVE TO OBSERVE THE SAME LIMITATION OR FACE EXPULSION. ALSO, AMERICAN JOURNALISTS WHO HAD FILED "UNACCEPTABLE" STORIES ON CZECHOSLOVAKIA COULD NOT FOR SOME TIME EXPECT TO RECEIVE CZECHOSLOVAK VISAS AGAIN.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PRAGUE 00927 131436Z

3. POLCOUNS SAID THAT USG VIEWED WITH DEEP CONCERN ATTEMPTS TO IMPOSE CONDITIONS ON REPORTING OF AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND THREATS TO EXPEL JOURNALISTS WHO DID NOT CONFORM TO SUCH CONDITIONS. SUCH MEASURES RUN DIRECTLY COUNTER TO HELSINKI FINAL ACT PROVISIONS ON PROMOTING A FREER FLOW OF INFORMATION AND IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS. IN ADDITION TO CSCE CONSIDERATIONS, SUCH MEASURES TEND FURTHER TO STRAIN BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH, AS IT WAS, COULD NO

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

T
BE DESCRIBED AS GOOD. POLCOUNS EXPRESSED HOPE GOC WOULD
REVIEW THE POLICY ON VISAS FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AS STATED BY SOBR
.

4. NOVOTNY REPLIED THAT HE COULD ONLY CONFIRM THE ACCURACY OF
POLCOUNS' SUMMARY OF GOC POLICY AND POINT OUT THAT IT APPLIED
ACROSS THE BOARD AND NOT JUST TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS. THE GOC
DOES NOT WANT REPORTING ON EVENTS HERE TO COME FROM THE MOUTHS OF
DISSIDENTS. NOVOTNY BRIEFLY REHEARSED THE STANDARD GOC LINE THAT
NONINTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS IS A PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL IMPOR-
TANCE WITH OTHER PRINCIPLES AND AIMS OF THE FINAL ACT. HE DREW
OUT A COPY OF THE FINAL ACT AND POINTED TO THE FINAL CLAUSE OF THE
BASKET 3 INFORMATION SECTION (2C) WHICH STATES "LEGITIMATE
PURSUIT OF THEIR PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY" WILL NOT SUBJECT
JOURNALISTS TO EXPULSION. HE SAID THAT THE GOC DID NOT REGARD
INTERVIEWING DISSIDENTS AS A "LEGITIMATE" ACTIVITY. POLCOUNS
AFFECTED SURPRISE AT THAT, SINCE THE LARGE AMOUNT OF COVERAGE GIVEN
TO CHARTER 77 BY CZECHOSLOVAK MEDIA WOULD APPEAR TO GIVE IT
LETITIMACY AS A NEWS STORY. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SEVERAL
CLAUSES HIGHER UP IN SECTION 2C THE INTENTION WAS EXPRESSED TO
INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY FOR FOURNALISTS TO "COMMUNICATE PERSONNALY
WITH THEIR SOURCES..." NOVOTNY REPEATED THAT THE GOC DID NOT WANT
REPORTING TO COME FROM THE MOUTHS OF DISSIDENTS AND SAID IT DID NOT
CONSIDER THEM LIGITIMATE "SOURCES."

6. POLCOUNS CONCLUDED THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TWO SOCITIES AND
SYSTEMS CLEARLY MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS
ISSUE, BUT THE USG WANTED ITS STRONG VIEWS TO BE ON RECORD WITH THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PRAGUE 00927 131436Z

GOC. NOVOTNY SAID HE COULD ONLY REPORT THE CONVERSATION TO HIS
SUPERIORS, WHICH HE UNDERTOOK TO DO.
BYRNE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VISAS, JOURNALISTS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE00927
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770128-0386
Format: TEL
From: PRAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770461/aaaacbdt.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c05235a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 77994, 77 STATE 81125, 77 PRAGUE 769
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2820597
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOURNE VISA/POLICY ON JOURNALIST VISAS
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, CZ, US
To: STATE VIENNA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c05235a6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009